

Brethren:

How many of you have ever read or seen “The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario”?

The latest publication is dated November 2004 and is listed as Volume 19 No. 3. The first issue was January 1981 and was, of course, Volume 1 No. 1. The first Chairman was R. W. Bro. W. E. McLeod and the first Editor was M. W. Bro. David C. Bradley. Presently M. W. Bro. Bradley is the Editor Emeritus and you might recall that R. W. Bro. McLeod was the author of the article on the Grand Lodge Certificate which I presented at my last Official Visitation at Corinthian Lodge No. 513. The present Publisher is R. W. Bro. Doug Franklin.

The booklet consists of articles sent in by contributors throughout our Grand Lodge jurisdiction and from afar. Each page of the booklet runs from 300-325 words so it is suggested that about 1200-1300 words should be the limit for an article.

What a treasure of articles have been published over the years. In the latest edition, there is an article written by our first Grand Master M. W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson. It was the Grand Master’s opening address at the Third Annual Communication, held at King Solomon’s Lodge, Toronto on the 14th day of July, 1858 during his first term of office and it was printed in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge. The topic of the article was how to become a model Master of a Lodge. From the first edition, we have an article on learning the Ritual and another on the Ancient Landmarks.

An interesting article in the May 1st, 1981, Volume 1 No. 2 was called “Horizons for the 1980’s.” Under the above title, Hamilton Masonic District “C” developed an education night based on “Meeting the Challenge”. Four topics were on the agenda: Duties of Lodge officers; Making effective use of Committees; Communications; and Making use of Masonic and Community Resources. The novel aspect of the evening was that the topics were under the control of junior officers from various lodges in the District: Bro. Ray Wilson, Senior Steward of Seymour Lodge; Bro. David Rae, Inner Guard of Dufferin Lodge; Bro. Douglas Downey, Senior Steward of Corinthian Lodge and Bro. Tom Irwin, Junior Deacon of Hamilton Lodge. It was noted that all of these members were to be commended for their efforts.

From the beginning, each edition, had sections such as the “Speakers’ Corner, Subscribers’ Questions, Book Reviews and my favourite “Questions And Answers”. Recently through the Grand Lodge of Instruction, a book was compiled by M. W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew, Custodian of the Work called “Questions and Answers”. If you want answers, please take a look at these books.

Each article in the “The Newsletter” editions is interesting but I take the liberty here to mention a few more topics which I recall were covered over the years: The Queen of Sheba, The Golden Fleece, Four Cardinal Virtues, The Collar, The Unexplained and one article even on the “Oldsmobile”. The Oldsmobile was named after a Mr. Olds who I believe was a Mason.

Brethren, all in all, this was a labour of love for all those who were involved in the publishing of this little booklet over the

past twenty-five years. May they continue to do so for many years to come.

The price of an annual subscription to “The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education” is Eighteen Dollars (\$18.00). You may send an order/payment to the “Masonic Education Newsletter” c/o 81 Naomee Crescent, London, Ontario N6H 3T3. Articles can be sent to R. W. Bro. Douglas Franklin, 16 Summershade Private, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4R2. His email address is frankly@magma.ca. I guarantee that you will find that it will be money well spent.

This talk is much too short. However, as our Custodian of the Work, M. W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew once said about chairing a meeting and, I think it can be applied to giving a speech, is that no one ever approached him after a meeting and said “That meeting was great but it was much too short”.

Brethren, thank you for your kind attention.